

HOW THE ST. LOUIS SPANISH-AMERICAN CLUB WILL ENTERTAIN WORLD'S LATIN VISITORS DURING THE FAIR.

Spaniards, Cubans, Mexicans and Natives of Many South American Countries are Planning to See the Louisiana Purchase Exposition Under the Auspices of This Organization.



MISS KATHERINE LALLY
CHARTER MEMBER

MADAME RICARDO DIAZ
ALBERTINI
HONORARY MEMBER

MISS CLARA SALISBURY
CHARTER MEMBER

ALVARO NUNCIO
COMMISSIONER GENERAL
TO WORLD'S FAIR
FROM CUBA

SEÑOR DON RICARDO
DIAZ ALBERTINI
SECRETARY WORLD'S
FAIR COMMITTEE AND
HONORARY MEMBER OF

MISS JULIA HOFFMANN,
CHARTER MEMBER

AUGUST BOETTE
PRESIDENT

ERNST B. FILSINGER,
VICE-PRESIDENT

MISS LOUISE BOETTE
CHARTER MEMBER

SEÑOR DON ESTEBAN
DUQUE DE ESTRADA
WORLD'S FAIR COM-
MISSIONER GENERAL
FOR CUBA

WRITTEN FOR THE SUNDAY REPUBLIC.
No greater effort to educate, entertain and encourage visitors of Spanish birth and extraction to the World's Fair will be made by any individual or organized body than by the Spanish-American Club of St. Louis.

As soon as the World's Fair was determined upon, the club widened its scope and branched out in all directions to enable it to meet the Spanish-speaking visitors to the World's Exposition.

Throughout Cuba and Mexico this aim of the club has been well promulgated, and many wealthy Cubans and Mexicans of high social and commercial standing have already announced their intention of visiting the World's Fair under the club's auspices.

The club's history is that of perseverance and application.

From a group of ten young men and women to a cosmopolitan club of 150 mem-

bers represents a remarkable growth. In the summer of 1900 several young people, interested in the study of Spanish, conceived the idea of meeting once a week in some central point to put to a practical test the knowledge of the Spanish tongue that had been acquired through the study of books and in the classroom.

CLUB EMPLOYED TEACHERS FROM SPAIN.

At the first meeting, held in June of that year, an organization was perfected, officers selected and a room secured in a residence at No. 948 Page boulevard.

Meetings were held regularly, and the interest displayed was so marked that it became necessary to enlarge the quarters as the membership increased.

Now the club has a hall and suite of rooms at No. 234 Lucas avenue, where the members meet every Friday evening. From the outset it was decided to en-

gage several native-born Spaniards and Cubans to direct the different groups of members, who were classed according to their knowledge of the Spanish tongue.

This plan proved very successful, and there are now seven different sections under competent instructors.

Every Friday evening an hour and a half is devoted to the practical study of Spanish to prepare the members of the club for the important duties that devolve upon them with the coming of the World's Fair.

One of the policies of the organization was to give Spanish entertainments, both for the benefit of the members and the pleasure of Spanish-speaking strangers in the city who had accepted their hospitality.

A fortunate circumstance in connection with these entertainments is that several female members are singers and eloquentists of ability, and they were always

pressed into service, all the more valuable because they had acquired a ready knowledge of the language.

Aside from being a school, the club is actuated by real club principles as to social aspect and fraternal spirit.

The resident Latin-Americans, principally young women and men from Mexico, have given hearty support to the club and are assisting the American members in every way to master the tongue.

SIGNOR ALBERTINI AIDS THE ORGANIZATION.

Valuable assistance is given to the club by Don Ricardo Diaz Albertini, Secretary of the World's Fair Entertainment Committee, and his charming spouse, Signora Albertini, who has been made an honorary member. Signor Albertini speaks English like a native, and Signora Albertini is a delightful vocalist, who can sing in Spanish, English, French and German.

The principal aim at the present time of the club is to arouse in St. Louis a greater interest in its Southern neighbors who will flock here for the Fair, and to assist in sustaining the reputation which St. Louis enjoys in regard to hospitality.

Each and every member of the Spanish-American Club is willing to exert himself to the utmost to be of service to the Commissioners to the Exposition, who are already arriving, generally with their families, to live in St. Louis till the Fair is over.

The Latin race is fond of personal attention, glad to visit among people who speak their tongue and mingle with Americans who are enabled to show a lively interest in their country.

All the club members wear pins emblematic of the objects of the organization, by which they may be readily re-

cognized as Spanish-speaking individuals. MEMBERS MAY BE IDENTIFIED BY THEIR PINS.

The pin represents the North and South American continents, drawn together and surrounded by the colors of all the Spanish-speaking countries and the United States—red, white, blue, yellow and green.

This pin is known in Spanish as "un distinguido," and will serve as a means of identification for the club members during the Fair.

The lady members of the club will devote themselves to the entertainment of their own sex, acting as guides, chaperones and companions to any visiting Spanish-speaking lady that comes to the Fair.

The business men of St. Louis are recognizing the value of such an organization as the Spanish-American Club and employees of many leading commercial houses are enrolled in the membership.

The Foreign Trade Association, which recently and which is composed of large export houses, adopted the club and offering co-operation in effort to extend the sphere of influence of St. Louis as a commercial center.

An effort is being made to erect at World's Fair a building to be placed under the supervision of the club, where visitors from every Spanish-speaking country meet on common ground.

The officers of the club are: August Boette, president; Ernest B. Filsinger, first vice president; G. H. Schwartz, second vice president; H. O. Stichel, secretary; Henry Guentz, treasurer.

REMINISCENCES OF ROBERT BENECKE, OLDEST ST. LOUIS PHOTOGRAPHER.



MR. ROBERT BENECKE

WRITTEN FOR THE SUNDAY REPUBLIC.

Robert Benecke, superintendent of the Creamer Dry Plate Works, is the oldest photographer in St. Louis. St. Louis citizens who lived in the city as far back as 1800 will recall the well-known Hoecker & Benecke establishment at Fourth and Market streets. Upon the death of Mr. Hoecker Benecke continued the business.

Mr. Benecke began his career as a photographer long before the Civil War. Though he has stepped out of the circle of photographers, he is more active in another branch of the work than many of his contemporaries of to-day.

At the factory of which he is superintendent Mr. Benecke's duties are to direct plate manufacturing. He also conducts the tests of all new emulsions and new plates. As each batch of emulsion for the coating of plates becomes exhausted and a new one is made, the plate must be tested.

A subject to be photographed is selected—usually one of the young ladies employed in the factory—and is seated beside the machine, and both are photographed. The negative is then compared by Mr. Ben-

ecke to another plate that is known to be perfect. On the machine is a set of figures fading away into a shadow, which enables him to determine the speed of the plate so tested. A set of different colors gives him its chromatic value.

Mr. Benecke is now a man of 63 years, with hair of snow-white color. He is still hale and active, however. His life experiences as a photographer have been full of interest and very different from what might be expected in the same vocation to-day.

One of the most remarkable differences and most noteworthy are the prices received for the work. Says Mr. Benecke: "If I were engaged in commercial or landscape photography now, I would not get the prices that I did in the old days. For pictures of the Eads bridge, taken during its construction, I received \$15 for each negative and 50 cents for each print. I took some thirty-five or forty pictures."

HE KNEW EADS.

"Mr. Eads, as I remember him, was a very quiet man, short and slight. He wore a beard, but not a mustache. His

hair was steel gray. He was a man of few words.

"The first picture I took for him was when a tug anchored at the spot where the first pier was to be sunk. The bridge was built with English money, and the photographs were to show the syndicate the progress that was being made."

Mr. Benecke was a member of the old St. Louis Photographers' Association. Mr. Benecke's gallery being centrally located meetings were held there.

Another contemporary of Mr. Benecke was Fitzgibbon, who published the St. Louis and Canadian Photographer, a magazine that is still flourishing. Mr. Benecke was employed by Mr. Fitzgibbon to translate articles from different German and French papers.

Among old-time photographers forgotten or unknown to the present public were Long, Outly, Fox and Scholten. Mr. Guentz began his career as an operator in Mr. Benecke's studio. He often managed the gallery when Benecke was away on a cross-country jaunt. One of these trips

was for the Kansas and Pacific Railroad. It continued six weeks, and Mr. Benecke received as compensation \$15 a day besides 50 cents extra for every print he made. He took landscape photographs in Kansas. The country was more wild than it is at the present time. Buffalo hunts were still the pastime of the day, and Mr. Benecke was fond of hunting. A photograph of a Buffalo shack is still in his possession.

Buffalo meat, says Mr. Benecke, would be kept for weeks. When hung in the sun it dried and was then easily carried around.

TRAVELED IN SPECIAL CAR.

Mr. Benecke had a special car for his railroad work. One end was fitted up with dark and coating rooms, and the other end served as combined kitchen and bedroom. Mr. Benecke came to this country from Germany when a youth of about

twenty years of age. He came to Missouri and started to farm.

Then he decided to make use of the photographic knowledge he had picked up as an amateur, and opened a gallery in Brunswick, Mo. When the Civil War began he joined the Eighteenth Missouri Regiment of the Union Army.

The explosion of an old flintlock bomb-packeted him for a military career and he came to St. Louis.

During the war many army officers came to Mr. Benecke to be photographed. Many of St. Louis's best-known citizens have in their possession photographs taken in their boyhood which bear the name of "Benecke." One of these is Doctor Freestorius of the Westliche Post.

Mr. Benecke's life to-day is most peaceful. His marriage was a happy one and the family has never known a death. He has four children, all of whom live near him.

NEW IDEAS IN AUTUMN WRAPS.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE.

fashionable girl's favor and is very likely to stay there for quite some time to come, and this because of its many excellences.

In the first place, it is quaint and lends itself well to the designs current for the new mode; and in the second, the dainty frills and generous fullnesses of the sleeves of a favorite matinee or dinner corsage need not be crushed when they are carefully bestowed into one of these full bishop puffs.

OLD LACE MAY BE USED TO ADVANTAGE.

In these latter days the smart girl is strictly utilitarian in even what may seem to her most extravagant ideas.

Lucky is the girl whose grandmother has saved all the priceless pieces of lace which went to decorate her own girlhood gowns and wraps, for now that grandmother will gladly and thankfully sew these same pieces into the sleeves and collars of her new costumes, just as her grandmother did ever so many years ago.

To be in keeping with the modes of the early days of the last century, which the whirligig of fashion has brought into present favor, some of the leaders of the grand mode in Paris are carrying tall canes decorated with ribbons and silk tassels.

These, however, are too decidedly ultra for the American girl, who, above all things, desires to avoid conspicuousness in her dress or appearance.

How Pecci (Later Leo XIII) Befriended a Little Girl.

Child Always Remembered Favor and When a White-Haired Matron Reminded Pope of His Kindness.

WRITTEN FOR THE SUNDAY REPUBLIC.

Seventy-two years ago, while Gregory XIV was Pope, a young priest was amusing himself one afternoon with a little girl 10 years old. They stood on the balcony of a villa in Rome, and near them, overhanging the wall which separated the villa from the adjoining one, were large clusters of ripe oranges.

"What a pity," said the little girl, "that those oranges belong to our neighbor, for I would be very glad to eat one."

As she spoke the young priest ran down from the balcony, quickly climbed the wall and picked half a dozen of the largest oranges, which he hastened to place in the little girl's lap. At first she was so dismayed at his temerity that she would not touch them, but with a laugh, he assured her that he had not committed any crime and that she might safely eat them.

A few years ago the Duchess of Bracciano, an old lady with snow-white hair, went to

the Vatican to pay her respects to his Holiness, and Leo XIII received her with extreme kindness.

"Do you remember, your Holiness," suddenly asked the Duchess, "that day, long ago, when you picked the oranges for me?"

"Hush, hush! Don't say a word at that," whispered Leo XIII, with a humorous smile, as he gently placed a finger on her lips.

LOUISE DEWEY.

Clever young daughter of John Dewey. She is now with Charles Frohman's English Stock Company. Miss Dewey made her stage debut only a season ago as the heroine in "Iris."

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